Export Development Authority (MPEDA) on the basis of shipping bills and invoices, the export of frozen shrimp declined by 0.85% in quantity and increased by 0.92% in dollar terms during January-May, 2005 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Necessary promotional support is being extended to ensure upgradation of processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, training and other capacity building measures, value addition, marketing support.

Promotion of export of leather

1734. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified the leather industry as a thrust sector in view of significant export growth prospects and enormous employment potential particularly in semi-urban and rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to capture at least five per cent of World Trade in leather within the next five years; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) Government is taking steps to implement the Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP), with an outlay of Rs. 400 crore, *inter-alia* for technology upgradation, modernisation and expansion of the leather industry as well as for infrastructure development and capacity building. Government is also supporting exports of leather products through the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme and the Market Access Initiative Scheme.

Floriculture production and export

1735. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop floriculture production and epxort them from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government for enhancing production and export of flowers from Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has been taking steps to promote production and export of floriculture products through financial assistance to registered exporters of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), setting up of Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) for floriculture, cargo handling and cold storage facilities at international airports and wholesale market-cum-flower auction centres.

(c) The following measures have been taken to enhance production and export of flowers from Tamil Nadu:

- Tanflora Floriculture Infrastructure Park is under implementation at Hosur.
- Cold storage & cargo handling facilities have been set up at Chennai airport.

Two Agri-Export Zones have been set up in the State of Tamil Nadu, one at Dharmapuri and the other at Nilgiris.

Restoration of free access to Indian Goods by US

1736. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has restored free access to goods from India, citing improved intellectual property rights;

(b) if so, whether according to US, India has made progress in providing an effective protection of intellectual property rights;

(c) if so, what is the full list of the duty free items or the value of access that has been made available to Indian goods;

(d) whether Indian exports of about $ 1 billion received duty free access or reduced duty benefits for entry to US market under the programme till 1990-92; and